

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image pickup apparatus comprising:

an image pickup element;

5 a memory for storing an image obtained by said  
image pickup element;

a signal processing circuit adapted to effect  
predetermined signal processing on an image read out of  
a first area of said memory; and

10 a memory control circuit adapted to, in a mode of  
continuously picking up still images, carry out in  
parallel a writing operation of writing an image  
obtained by said image pickup element, into the first  
area of said memory and a readout operation of reading  
an image already stored in the first area of said  
15 memory to effect said predetermined signal processing  
by the signal processing circuit.

2. The image pickup apparatus according to Claim  
1, wherein said signal processing circuit carries out  
20 white balance processing and compression processing of  
an image read out of the first area of said memory.

3. The image pickup apparatus according to Claim  
2, wherein said memory control circuit further carries  
25 out a writing operation of writing a compressed image  
in a second area of said memory in parallel to said  
writing operation and readout operation.

4. The image pickup apparatus according to Claim  
1, wherein said memory control circuit further carries  
out a readout operation of reading an image stored in a  
second area of said memory in parallel to said writing  
5 operation and readout operation, to record the image in  
a removable recording medium.

10 5. The image pickup apparatus according to Claim  
1, wherein said signal processing circuit and said  
memory control circuit are included on a single  
integrated circuit.